



News Release

Date: May 6, 2004
Release Number :04-23

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SBA Names 2004 North Carolina Veteran Small Business Advocate Of The Year

Charlotte, NC – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Larry Hammond, the *Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year* for 2004.

“It is a great pleasure to honor the Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year and salute the contributions of North Carolina’s advocates for small business,” said SBA’s North Carolina District Director Lee Cornelison.

Mr. Hammond will receive his award at the Elizabethtown White Lake Chamber Luncheon, Tuesday, May 11, 2004 with keynote speaker TJ Bryan, Chancellor of Fayetteville State University. The event will be held 1:00pm at the Front Porch Restaurant in Elizabethtown.

Larry Hammond has been the Veteran Service Officer for Bladen County since 1993. He assists veterans on a variety of issues including those looking to start and expand their own businesses and pursuing employment.

His work on the 7th Congressional District, Military Retirees and Veterans Affairs Committee includes active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small business.

Mr. Hammond enlisted in the United States Coast Guard (USCG) in 1967. He was commissioned an officer in June 1980 and accepted an assignment as Officer in Charge, Presidential Honor Guard, Washington DC. For over 25 years in the USCG he worked in a variety of areas including Flight, Shipboard Duties, Medical Services, Public Affairs, and Maritime Environmental Protection Departments. He retired from USCG in 1993.

Larry and his wife Beth live in Clarkton, NC and have two children living at home.

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